June, 2003, a Joint Study Group composed of officials and economists has been set up to examine the potential complementarities between the two countries in expanding trade and economic cooperation. The Terms of Reference of the Joint Study Group, *inter-alia* include examining the feasibility of moving towards a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement and, if such an arrangement is found feasible to make recommendations regarding its scope, structure and implementation. The Joint Study Group is led by Dr. Rakesh Mohan from the Indian side. The First Meeting of the Joint Study Group was held in Beijing in March, 2004 and the Second Meeting was held in New Delhi in July, 2004. The Third Meeting of the Joint Study Group was held in Beijing on December 1-3, 2004. During the visit of PM to Beijing in June, 2003, an MoU was also signed between the two Governments on expanding border trade. Bilateral agreements signed between the two countries provide the structural and institutional framework for expanding and diversifying the bilateral trade.

India's share in global trade

1023. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out a strategy to double India's share in global trade during the next five years;

(b) if so, the broad features thereof, indicating the share of agriculture and service sectors in the present exports and the targeted exports; and

(c) the steps taken and being taken in that direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Export promotion is a constant endeavour of the Government. A Foreign Trade Policy was announced on 31st August, 2004 with the twin objective of doubling India's share of global merchandise trade within the next five years and also giving a thrust to employment generation. An export target of 16 per cent corresponding to a level of US $ 73.4 billion has been fixed for the year 2004-05 which is higher than the target of 12 per cent fixed for the last two years. This will help exports to reach a level of US $ 150 billion in 2009-10. As per DGCI&S data, the share of agriculture and allied products in India's merchandise exports in April-March, 2003-04 was 11.57 percent.

The share of agriculture in total exports (merchandise and services) was 8.06 per cent. As per RBI data, India's exports of services during 2003-04 was US$ 27,616 million accounting for 30.32 per cent of India's total exports (merchandise as well as services).

(c) Some of the key strategies adopted to enhance exports include: simplification of procedures, reduction in transaction cost, neutralisation of incidences of all levies and duties on inputs used for export production, facilitating development of India as a global hub for manufacturing, trading and services, identifying and nurturing special focus areas like agriculture, handlooms, handicraft, gems & jewellery and leather, footwear etc. In addition, Export Promotion Schemes like Vishesh Krishi Upaj Yojna' (Special Agricultural Produce Scheme) and 'Served from India Scheme to accelerate the growth of agriculture and service export have been announced. Besides, Export Promotion Council for Services has been set up.

Development of Pragati Maidan

1024. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a project proposal for developing Pragati Maidan into a world class centre for international trade;

(b) if so, the details thereof and its cost and work-schedule; and

(c) the steps taken or being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c)ATechno Economic Feasibility Report and Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been prepared by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and is being considered by the Government. The DPR, *inter-alia,* envisages an increase in the gross air-conditioned exhibition space, addition of a large Convention Centre, a permanent exhibition mart, multi-level parking, a captive power plant, food and beverage facilities etc. The estimated cost of the project is about Rs. 1260 crore.